

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 119
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1832

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS - SECRETARY'S MONTREAL SPEECH

REF: A) STATE 189248; B) SOFIA 1674; C) SOFIA 1773

1. HAVING SENT HIM THE SECRETARY'S MONTREAL SPEECH WHILE HE WAS ON VACATION WITH REQUEST THAT WE DISCUSS IT UPON HIS RETURN, I FOUND FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV REASONABLY WELL PREPARED FOR DISCUSSION OF LOS WHEN I CALLED ON HIM FOR TOUR D'HORIZON ON AUGUST 27. AFTER COMPLIMENTS TO THE SECRETARY FOR EXPRESSING "INTERESTING AND CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS" AND AN IDEOLOGICAL THRUST THAT "CHANGES IN SOCIAL SYSTEMS WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL LAW", HE GAVE RATHER RAMBLING REVIEW OF BULGARIAN POSITION ON LOS.

2. AS A COASTAL STATE WITH LONG-DISTANCE FISHING INTERESTS, AND AS TRADING NATION WITH SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST IN UNTRAMMELED OCEAN SHIPPING, MLADENOV SAID, BULGARIA'S POSITION IS "RATIONAL": IT FAVORS A COMPROMISE SOLUTION MUCH ALONG THE LINES WE HAD SKETCHED OUT WITH 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, FREE TRANSIT THROUGH TERRITORIAL SEA INCLUDING STRAITS, ACCOMMODATION OF INTERESTS OF LANDLOCKED STATES (AND LONG-DISTANCE FISHING STATES) IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE, FREEDOM FOR SUCH "OTHER USES" AS OCEAN RESEARCH, AND AGREED
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STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO PREVENTION OF POLLUTION. THE LOS COMMITTEE DRAFTS SHOULD BE USED AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. BULGARIA OPPOSES UNILATERAL EXTENSIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY TO 200 MILES WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE A

SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE.

3. WHEN DISCUSSING THE DEEP SEABED, MLADENOV USED AN EVEN BROADER BRUSH. THERE SHOULD BE "OBLIGATORY GENERAL RULES ASSURING EQUAL ACCESS". THERE MUST BE MORE "SERIOUS THINKING ABOUT THE MECHANISM." WHEN I ASKED WHETHER HIS REMARKS ABOUT EQUAL ACCESS IMPLIED THAT HE FAVORED THE RIGHTS OF ALL COUNTRIES AND THEIR CITIZENS DIRECTLY TO EXPLOIT DEEP SEABED RESOURCES AS POSTULATED IN THE MONTREAL SPEECH, MLADENOV SAID THAT "ALTHOUGH THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE DEEP SEABED ARE ENORMOUS, THEY ARE NON-RENEWABLE. THEREFORE THERE MUST BE REASONABLE UTILIZATION SO THE INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY, IN WHICH ALL COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE, SHOULD REGULATE EXPLOITATION BY GRANTING LICENSES UNDER AGREED CONDITIONS." IN OTHER WORDS, IF HE CORRECTLY REFLECTED HIS BRIEF, THE GOB POSITION IS TO OPPOSE AMONOPOLY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY WHILE GIVING IT POWER TO LICENSE OTHER ENTERPRISES.

4. IT HAS STILL NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS OUR NEW PROPOSALS WITH AMBASSADOR YANKOV, BUT I HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION AS SOON AS HE RETURNS FROM VACATION.
HERZ

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